

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 23, 2005

Chairman Harold Rogers  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
2406 RHOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Martin Olav Sabo  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
2336 RHOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member:

As you know, the Administration's budget once again requests no funding for the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS). MMRS is the only federal program that helps first responders, medical personnel, emergency management workers, businesses and other stakeholders develop effective, integrated capabilities to minimize casualties in the event of a terrorist attack using a weapon of mass destruction, including a so-called "dirty bomb", which disperses harmful radiation. We thank you for your past support of the MMRS program and request that you once again support this vital program with funding in Fiscal Year 2006 at least equal to last year's \$30 million level.

MMRS was established in the wake of the deadly bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building in Oklahoma City and the lethal release of sarin nerve gas in a Tokyo subway in 1995. The program provides funds to 125 municipal authorities in 43 states for local first responder planning, training, exercises, equipment, and pharmaceutical caches. MMRS program guidance requires the enhancement of local capabilities for coordinating local fire, police, hospital, and public health agencies in the event of terrorist WMD attacks, including nuclear, biological, chemical, and radiological weapons. This planning includes preparing for treatment of 1,000 or more casualties, triage, direct distribution of vaccines and other pharmaceuticals and protection of medical facilities in the immediate post-incident time period before sufficient external resources can arrive and become operational (typically 24-48 hours).

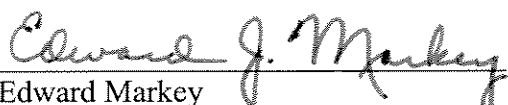
MMRS provides unique services that are urgently needed, given the determination of terrorist groups to acquire a weapon of mass destruction for use in attacks in the U.S. A current compelling reminder of this threat is provided in *Time Magazine's* February 14, 2005 cover story, "The Merchant of Menace," which describes how Pakistan nuclear weapon scientist A.Q. Khan peddled his nuclear weapons technology and expertise to some of the world's most dangerous regimes, including Iran and North Korea. Osama bin Laden has declared that the acquisition of a nuclear weapon is a sacred duty, and Al Qaeda is known to be actively seeking nuclear weapons and materials.

In the shadow of this threat, local first responders and "first receivers" such as doctors, emergency medical technicians and public health officials must be prepared to act in a coordinated fashion and have the specialized equipment, training and information infrastructure to do so. MMRS is the only federal program that directly supports and encourages the coordination of such an integrated approach to the response to and management of a WMD attack. The creation of "one-stop grant shopping" for States and tribal and local governments within the Department of Homeland Security places MMRS grants within

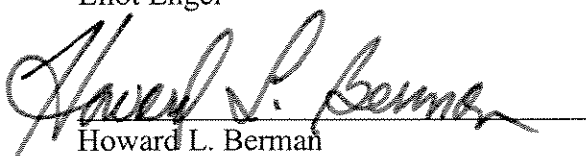
the multi-part Homeland Security Grants program. Support for specified funding for MMRS is even more important in this new setting.


Thank for your strong support for MMRS during the FY05 appropriations process. We respectfully request that during the FY06 appropriations process you provide at least last year's funding level of \$30 million for MMRS. Such funding will provide critical support for the emergency personnel in our local municipalities, who will be on the front lines in the event of a major terrorist attack.


Sincerely,


  
Edward Markey

  
Eliot Engel

  
Howard L. Berman

  
James Moran


  
Barney Frank

  
Carolyn Maloney


  
Charles B. Rangel


  
Tom Lantos


  
Eleanor Holmes Norton

  
Donald Payne


  
Elijah Cummings

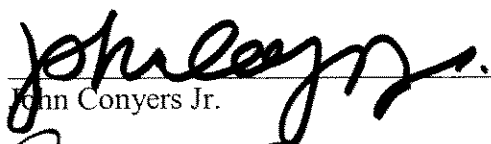
  
Gary Ackerman

  
Major Owens


  
Maxine Waters

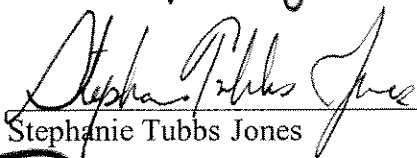
  
Jane Harman

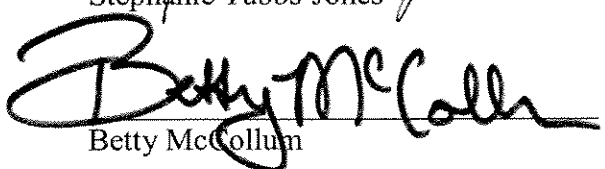
  
Bobby L. Rush

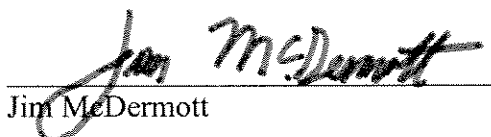
  
John Conyers Jr.

  
Corrine Brown

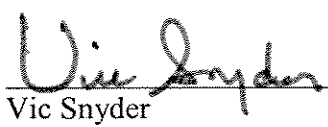
  
Solomon Ortiz

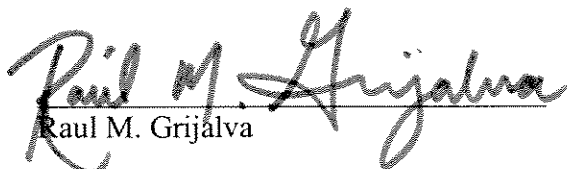
  
Stephanie Tubbs Jones

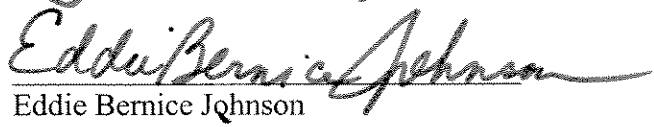
  
Betty McCollum

  
Jim McDermott

  
Loretta Sanchez

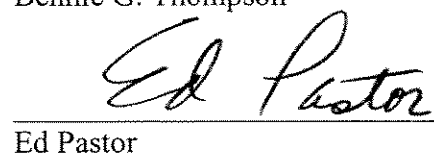
  
Vic Snyder

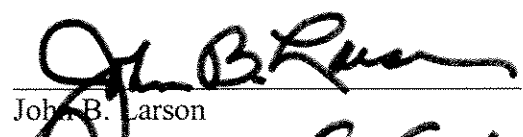
  
Raul M. Grijalva

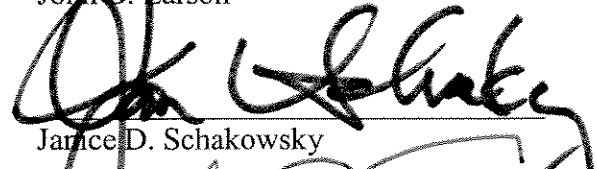
  
Eddie Bernice Johnson

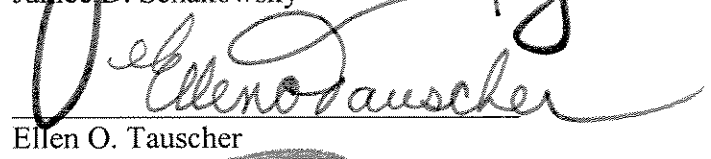
  
Brad Miller

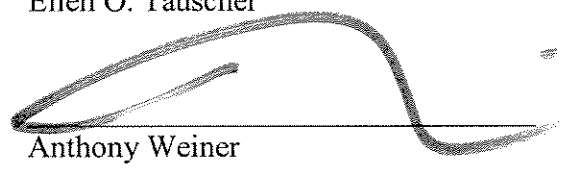
  
Bennie G. Thompson

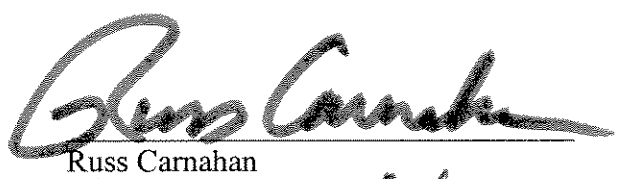
  
Ed Pastor

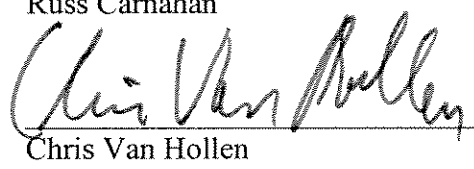
  
John B. Larson

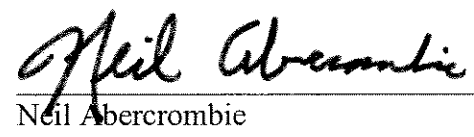
  
Janice D. Schakowsky

  
Ellen O. Tauscher

  
Anthony Weiner

  
Russ Carnahan

  
Chris Van Hollen

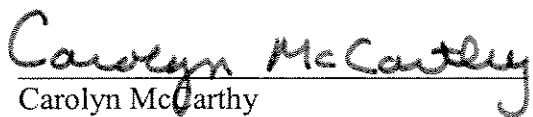
  
Neil Abercrombie

  
Diana DeGette

  
Barbara Lee



Dennis Moore



Carolyn McCarthy




Ed Case



Jon Porter



Harold Ford Jr.



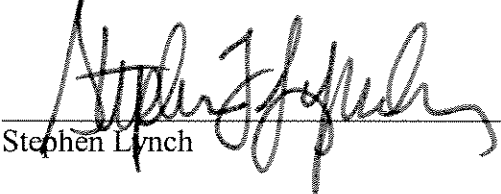
Allyson Schwartz



Brian Higgins



Dennis A. Cardoza



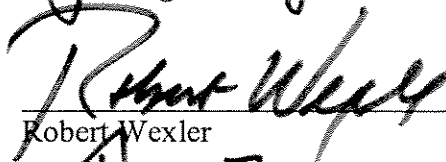
Stephen Lynch



Dennis Kucinich



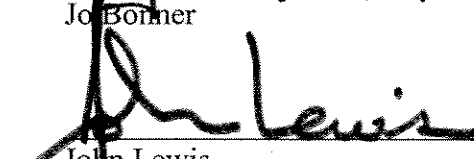
James Langevin



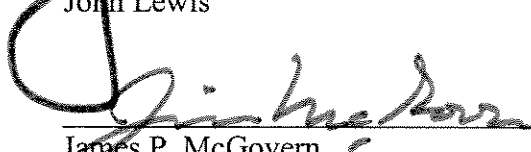
Robert Wexler



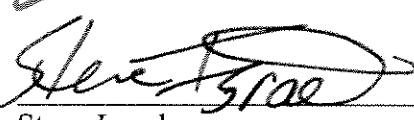
Jo Bonner



John Lewis



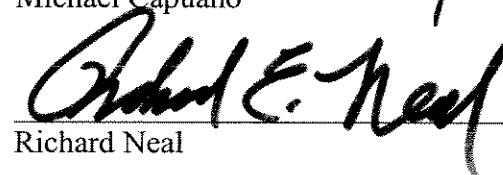
James P. McGovern



Steve Israel



Michael Capuano



Richard Neal